

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Personnel, Production and Research at  
Oberspreewerk (OSW)

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## Personnel

1. The following members of the Oberspreewerk (OSW) have resigned or intend to resign:

Dr. Oertel	Chief of Section Ia, tube development
Siupke	Radar research (continuous-dash and impulse methods)
Ihlen	Successor to Thourer, Chief of Section Ic, development of discharge tubes
Ittig	Spectral high-pressure tube development
Jost	Mercury high-pressure tube development
Freitag	Associate of Preuss in secret research
Gnabs	Wavemeter development
Dr. Barth	Chief of all testing operations, now again with Telefunken

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4. On 1 April 1949, about 25% of the personnel of OSW was given discharge notices. Approximately the same percentage of workers was discharged at the Kabelwerk Oberspreewerk, the Rectifier Bureau, the HEF Works, and Gema. In general, the reason for the dismissals was plant reorganization. According to a directive of the SED, members of the SED could be discharged only in serious cases.

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5. Schtfer, the former assistant of Dr. Bechmann, was made a member of the staff. Dr. Bechmann was originally the director of OSW and was well known as a specialist in the field of quartz oscillators. [REDACTED]

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6. A Colonel Timoshenko has been made general manager of Siemens - Plania. The German manager is one Henrion, a Russian of German descent. During the war he was plant assistant at Gema for a while.

Production

7. As reparations, Siemens - Plania is at present manufacturing electrodes, special lampblack for physical-chemical purposes, and electric furnaces. The firm is experiencing much difficulty with the production of lampblack because shipments from the Western Zones have fallen off, and it is negotiating with Poland and Czechoslovakia in order to overcome this problem.
8. The supply of the rare gases Ne, Xe, and Kr will suffice only through the month of March. These rare gases had been furnished [REDACTED] but, as a result of the blockade, it has been unable to ship supplies to OSW, which as yet knows no other suppliers.
9. Production has been approved, for purpose of export, of field intensity meters, noise meters, and spectral analysis equipment for a wave length above 10 cm. //
10. Although the annealing zone of the annealing furnaces for Zn and Wo wires is adjusted for two wires, only one wire was used in all ten annealing furnaces. Only upon order of the board of examiners was the annealing operation changed to two wires.
11. The cost analysis that was started in December 1948 showed that the production departments operate at a productivity of 37%, the remaining percentage consisting of overhead. This high overhead can be attributed partly to wasteful production. For instance, the technical equipment is neglected and the technical supervisory personnel are insufficiently trained and lacking in interest. The waste in the production of cathode housings has been over 30% for more than two years, but no one has investigated the causes. The engineer in charge has considered this percentage to be a normal one and has merely raised the production charge accordingly.
12. The personnel overhead is extremely high. There are about 60 plant guards and 70 kitchen workers for a staff of 2,000. Added to these are councilors for the workers, members of the plant union management and of numerous special commissions, and others, who generally hold meetings several times a week. Furthermore, work has fallen off because of such meetings and because of lectures and sessions. Since this personnel overhead is accounted for separately by each department, the total overhead could not yet be ascertained.
13. The merchandising overhead, consisting of wages paid to shop clerks, storehouse personnel, etc., amounts to 8 to 10% and is within normal limits.
14. The lowest overhead occurs in those departments whose production process is largely automatic or whose production is directed by experts because of the value of the products. In both cases, the number of personnel and of political officers is proportionately small. This is especially true in the tube department, where the overhead in the production of X-ray tubes is about 22%.
15. A clash over the relative importance of political and technical functions has developed between the personnel management, the shop committee, and the plant union leaders, on the one hand, and the Russian management, on the other. In an internal party meeting which was held recently, Loschmanov, the Russian manager, was attacked by Hopp, the board chairman, and by Wille, the personnel manager,

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for supporting reactionaries - i.e.: Dr. Bronda who acknowledged publicly that he belonged to the Independent Trade Union Organization (UGO), and director Gruner, who was formerly a plant manager at Telefunken. Criticism was also directed at the retrenchment of personnel in which too few politically undesirable persons were included.

Research

16. On orders from Moscow the research program was modified. All developmental work on waves over 3 cm. is now carried out in Moscow; other research remains at CSW.
17. According to Professor Gartz and Professor Knauer who are now working at the German Economic Commission (DWK), Berlin, Dr. Bronda has made greater progress in his research on single crystals than accomplished by any other research. Dr. Bronda is to develop further transmitter research (radio wave amplification without tubes). As a starting point he will use the results of experiments with germanium.
18. A betatron for atomic research is to be set up at CSW. Dr. Wittke is to formulate the research tasks, which are to cover only medical and industrial subjects. It is planned to co-operate with the Biophysical Institute at Buch. Dr. Wittke is at present working on oscillograph problems at Research Section III of CSW. He was formerly on the staff at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute and is said to be the only German atom expert still in the Eastern Zone. Wittke lives in the engineers' settlement of the Russian plants at Hirschgarten.

Miscellaneous

19. Wittbrodt, chief of research in the German sector, and Möhring, chief of the main department for Postal and Telegraph Communications (both members of the DWK), participated in the conference with the Yugoslav commercial and military mission.

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